



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Inmate Death at USP Tucson**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Friday, January 8, 2021, inmate Theodore Kootswatewa tested positive for COVID-19 at the United States Penitentiary (USP) Tucson in Tucson, Arizona and was immediately placed in medical isolation. Institution medical staff provided treatment and monitored his condition. On Monday, January 18, 2021, he was transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation due to respiratory distress. On Tuesday, February 2, 2021, Mr. Kootswatewa, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Kootswatewa was a 70-year-old male who was sentenced in the District of Arizona to a 480-month sentence for Aggravated Sexual Abuse with a Minor, Abusive Sexual Contact and Penalties for Registered Sex Offenders. He had been in custody at USP Tucson since August 3, 2016.

USP Tucson is a high security facility that currently houses 1,328 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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